



## PRESS RELEASE

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March 12, 2021

### **Kennel Club Announces Marine Terry Beck Scholarship Fund**

As part of a virtual K9 Veterans Day ceremony, The Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson, Inc. (KCFA) announced the creation of a scholarship in memory of Terry Beck, a local Marine Scout Dog Handler, who was killed in action with his K9 partner, Seato, in December 1967.

KCFA is launching a fundraising campaign with a goal of \$15,000, and a deadline of September 1, 2021. KCFA will subsequently apply to the Fort Atkinson Community Foundation (FACF) to establish an endowed scholarship—the **Marine Terry Beck Protective Services Scholarship**, which will potentially yield a scholarship of \$750 annually.

Upon approval by the FACF board, the Marine Terry Beck Protective Services scholarship will become part of FACF's annual scholarships and will offer financial assistance to Fort Atkinson High School seniors and Fort Atkinson graduates who plan to enter the field of protective services. According to the Fort Atkinson High School scholarship coordinator, between two and five graduates annually enter the field of protective services. This scholarship will satisfy an unfilled niche for these students in addition to acknowledging Terry Beck's passion to protect and serve his country and its citizens.

During the virtual K9 Veterans Day ceremony, Terry's friend and Army veteran Gary Wolfram spoke eloquently about the friendship that existed among him, Jeff Blomsness and Terry stating, "Jeff and I liked Terry right off and became very close friends." He explained, "Terry was only 17 at the time and was very military minded....it was 1966 and everyone was getting drafted. Terry wanted to do his part, so he signed up for the Marines." Wolfram quietly

remarked that Terry was in Vietnam only three months when he and K9 partner Seato were killed by a sniper, adding, “Terry will be memorialized as the 18-year-old who was killed with his dog...one of thousands who gave their lives as the true Americans they were.”

American Legion Sargent at Arms Richard Miles spoke on behalf of the veteran community in support of the Marine Terry Beck Protective Services scholarship. Miles told of Terry’s choice to train as a K9 handler saying, “This position is unique and well respected. Serving on the front lines, dog and handler are an integral part of a combat team.” Miles added that “a scholarship in his name, along with the War Dog Memorial with his likeness, will help to ensure that this special and respected part of our history will never be forgotten. Perhaps many will be inspired to educate themselves for these vital professions.”

All funds contributed toward the scholarship will be held by the Kennel Club in a segregated account, and an acknowledgment note will be sent. If the fundraising goal is not reached by the September 1 deadline, KCFA will return all funds to donors. Only after the scholarship is formally established by the Fort Atkinson Community Foundation will an official KCFA receipt be sent to donors at the end of the 2021 tax year in compliance with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt requirements.

Individuals, businesses, and organizations wishing to contribute to the scholarship may send a check payable to “KCFA—Terry Beck Scholarship” to Terry Beck Scholarship, c/o Mabel Schumacher, Treasurer, 848 Messmer Street, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538.

KCFA has been involved in honoring K9s and their handlers for the past several years. In 2015, KCFA was instrumental in the Wisconsin proclamation of March 13<sup>th</sup> as K9 Veterans Day. KCFA also spearheaded the McCoy Park K9 Veterans Memorial, dedicated in 2017. Inspired by the unbreakable bond demonstrated by Terry Beck and Seato, this Fort Atkinson War Dog memorial was created to honor military working dogs, past, present, and future. Leading the coordination of the annual observance of K9 Veterans Day in Wisconsin, KCFA and its partner organizations have honored 76 fallen working dogs since its first program in 2015. During the 2021 ceremony, an additional 19 fallen law enforcement and search and rescue dogs from across Wisconsin were honored for their service.

Further information about the Marine Terry Beck Protective Services Scholarship and the virtual K9 Veterans Day ceremony is available at [www.KCFAdogs.org](http://www.KCFAdogs.org). The Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson, Inc. is an all-volunteer, 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing training classes, community service and responsible dog ownership education.

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